

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products

Mississippi Technology Alliance

Lean Manufacturing Implementation Benefits General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products

Client Profile:

General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products (GDATP), an operating unit of the General Dynamics Corporation, is a systems integrator of defense products for all branches of the U.S. Department of Defense and the Ministries of Defense of over 30 allied nations. GDATP designs, develops and produces high-performance armament systems, a full range of high-performance composite products for the aerospace industry, biological and chemical detection systems, advanced sensor and vision-enhancements systems, and mobile shelter systems. GDATP's facility in McHenry, Mississippi manufactures Reactive Armor tiles for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle (BFV), a troop transport designed to provide fire cover to dismounted troops and suppress enemy tanks and fighting vehicles. Reactive Armor provides a substantial increase in protection for troops and equipment against all shoulder-fired weapons and most tube-launched, shape-charge systems. The McHenry plant employs 24 people.

Situation:

GDATP's Principal Manufacturing Engineer, John Summers, contacted the Mississippi Technology Alliance (MEP.ms), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance to provide Lean manufacturing training and Kaizen implementation as transformational follow-up work he had already started at the GDATP plant in McHenry, MS to improve processes and eliminate inefficiencies.

Solution:

MEP.ms delivered four Principles of Lean Manufacturing workshops for GDATP employees. Three of the four one-day sessions were delivered to GDATP employees with a good working knowledge of the fundamentals of Lean manufacturing. As a result of this training, assembly defects were reduced by 72 percent.

Results:

- * Reduced assembly defects by 72 percent.
- * Invested \$2,250 in workforce training.

Testimonial:

"We do it right, then make it better!"

Melvin Girard , Human Resources Manager & Facilities Security Officer